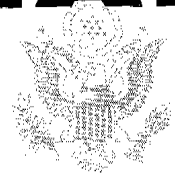


PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



December 12, 1974

NO. 523

INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE PRESS BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND
HIS EXCELLENCY MELIH ESENBEL
FOREIGN MINISTER OF TURKEY
FOLLOWING THE SECOND BILATERAL MEETING
AT THE HILTON HOTEL
BRUSSELS
DECEMBER 11, 1974

QUESTION: Mr. Foreign Minister -- could we have a word with you, Sir? This morning you made some quotes about your feelings towards the American Congress' actions in terms of cutting off aid to Turkey effective today. Would you tell us again your feelings on this -- what effect it will have on the case on Cyprus?

FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL: Well, I think it will have unfortunately an adverse effect.

QUESTION: In what way?

FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL: Well, it won't help the negotiating process.

QUESTION: Do you think it is going to delay it for any considerable time?

FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL: Well, I am not ready to make an estimate, but it happened in the past; you know what happened in the past, so it is likely to happen again.

QUESTION: One more question Sir; do you feel it will be possible to reach a settlement on Cyprus so long as American aid continues to be cut off?

FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL: Well, I want to say this, that the aid program is something else, as the Secretary mentioned this morning and earlier in Washington to the press, the Turkish aid program is in support of NATO purposes and we won't see how this could be linked with any solution about Cyprus.

QUESTION: Have you made any progress today?

FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL: Well, we had further exchanges with the Secretary.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, is there any more progress you have reached during the second round of talks with the Turkish Foreign Minister?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We continued our exchanges as the Foreign Minister says, and I will be seeing the Greek Foreign Minister again later tonight.

For further information contact:

QUESTION: Is there some prospect now of a meeting between the Greek and Turkish Foreign Ministers?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I do not want to speculate on any particular things that may happen, but again, our experience in the past has been, as the Turkish Foreign Minister has pointed out and I want to repeat again, that the Administration gives aid to Turkey in the interest of our common purposes and in the common defense of the West and not as a means of pressure.

QUESTION: You do not believe that Congressional action has in fact undermined our discussions on the Cyprus question?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We hope that the House of Representatives will support the action of the Senate.
